SPECIAL FEATURE
WAYNE HYDE

JULY 12, 1978

WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP AT BAGUIO CITY

ANNCR: ON SUNDAY, JULY 16, TWO MEN WILL BE FACING EACH OTHER ACROSS A CHESS BOARD IN THE BEAUTIFUL PHILIPPINES MOUNTAIN RESORT OF BAGUIO CITY. ANATOLY KARPOV AND VICTOR KORCHNOI WILL BEGIN A MATCH FOR THE OFFICIAL WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP. WITH THIS SCENESETTER, HERE IS ----------.

VOICE: THE CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BELONG TO THE FIRST MAN WHO WINS SIX GAMES. TO THOSE WHO ARE UNFAMILIAR WITH THE GAME OF CHESS, WINNING SIX GAMES MAY SEEM A RELATIVELY EASY MATTER. NOT SO. KARPOV AND KORCHNOI MAY BE AT THEIR CHESSBOARD FOR THE REST OF THIS SUMMER -- OR POSSIBLY LONGER. THAT TAKES A LITTLE EXPLANATION.

FOUR YEARS AGO, ANATOLY KARPOV DEFEATED VICTOR KORCHNOI FOR THE WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP IN A MATCH THAT WENT THE THEN STANDARD 24 GAMES. BUT THE TWO MEN PLAYED TO NINETEEN DRAWS DURING THE MATCH -- WHICH WAS FINALLY TO END WITH A THREE-TO-TWO VICTORY FOR KARPOV.

IN THIS UPCOMING MATCH, THERE WILL BE NO LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF DRAWS BECAUSE THE 24-GAME FORMAT IS NO LONGER IN EFFECT. KARPOV AND KORCHNOI MIGHT PLAY ALMOST FIFTY GAMES BEFORE ONE OR THE OTHER HAS WON SIX GAMES.

AT THE AGE OF 46 (47 ON JULY 23), VICTOR KORCHNOI HAS BEEN PLAYING CHESS SINCE BEFORE ANATOLY KARPOV WAS BORN. HE WAS A GRANDMASTER WHEN KARPOV WAS A SMALL BOY, AND HIS FIRST PRIZE AWARDS GO BACK TWENTY-FIVE YEARS. KARPOV AND KORCHNOI

VOICE: (CONT'D) HAVE PLAYED 35 GAMES OF CHESS AGAINST EACH OTHER, WITH KARPOV WINNING SEVEN AND KORCHNOI SIX. KORCHNOI IS THE ONLY MAN IN THE WORLD TO HAVE BEATEN KARPOV MORE THAN ONCE.

WORLD CHAMPION KARPOV IS TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS OLD. HE LEARNED THE CHESS MOVES AT THE AGE OF FOUR AND REACHED THE GAMES'S HIGHEST LEVEL -- THE RANK OF INTERNATIONAL GRANDMASTER -- WHEN HE WAS 19 YEARS OLD. HE IS A CALM, COOL PLAYER IN CONTRAST TO THE VOLATILE,AGGRESSIVE STYLE OF KORCHNOI, AND THIS MATCH WILL BE A BATTLE OF PERSONALITIES AND GENERATIONS AS WELL AS STYLES.

THIS YEAR'S MATCH, THEN, IS EXPECTED TO BE SIMILAR TO THE CONTROVERSIAL MATCH THE TWO MEN HAD FOUR YEARS AGO. THAT ONE WAS TO DETERMINE A CHALLENGER TO MEET THEN WORLD CHAMPION BOBBY FISCHER, WHO WOULD LATER DECIDE NOT TO DEFEND HIS TITLE. KARPOV WAS THEN DECLARED CHAMPION BY DEFAULT AFTER DEFEATING KORCHNOI.

BAGUIO CITY, ABOUT 200 KILOMETERS NORTH OF MANILA, IS A QUIET, BEAUTIFUL PLACE OF CLEAN AIR AND SCENIC LANDSCAPES. IT'S A RESORT AREA, CONDUCIVE TO TOTAL RELAXATION. SOME HAVE CALLED IT "THE SWITZERLAND OF THE PACIFIC." CHESS OFFICIALS, THE NEWS MEDIA, AND ENTHUSIASTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD ARE GATHERING IN THE PRETTY MOUNTAIN CITY. FOR A FEW MORE DAYS THEY CAN RELAX AND ENJOY IT. BUT THE TENSION IS MOUNTING, AND ON SUNDAY THE BATTLE BEGINS. AND IT MAY BE MONTHS BEFORE THE WORLD KNOWS WHO ITS NEW CHESS CHAMPION WILL BE.

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